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Associated Press

WALT W. ROSTOW
... denies security charge

Clearance Report Hit By Rostow

Walt W. Rostow, President Johnson's special assistant for national security affairs, has denied a report that he was refused security clearance three times during the Eisenhower Administration.

The report, given wide circulation in several Midwestern newspapers, is said to be based on a brief filed last month by Washington attorney Roger Robb for Otto F. Otepka, who is fighting dismissal as the State Department's chief security officer. The brief has not been made public, and Robb has declined to discuss it with reporters.

One source who has seen it, however, told the Associated Press that Robb's brief cites testimony by Otepka at a closed State Department hearing into his case last June.

According to the account furnished AP, the brief asserts that Rostow was rejected for security clearance in 1955 by Herbert Hoover Jr., then Under Secretary of State, and twice later by Roderick O'Connor, then administrator of State's bureau of security.

Asked about this by AP, Rostow replied: "From 1951 onward, I had continuous security clearance from various agencies of the Federal Government."

AP's anonymous informant said the brief quotes Otepka's testimony that in December, 1960, he was asked by Secretary of State-designate Dean Rusk and by Robert F. Kennedy to give Rostow emergency clearance, without investigation, for a State Department post. The brief quotes Otepka as having cited knowledge of certain CIA and Air Force documents which compelled him to insist on a full security investigation, the AP source said.

Rostow subsequently joined the White House staff as deputy to McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's foreign affairs adviser.

MORI/CDE